

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 DHA-02 MCT-01 /083 W

-----172218Z 069578 /70

R 171726Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

US LIAISON OFFICE PEKING 009

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0410

CINCPAC PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, CH

SUBJECT: GOL PLANNED RECOGNITION OF PRC

REFS: MONROVIA 121, 180, 344

1. ON JANUARY 17 CHINESE AMBASSADOR YIN INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT, FONMIN DENNIS AND DEPFONMIN SHERMAN JANUARY 12 AND WAS GIVEN THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE THE GOL RECOGNIZES THE PRC. TOLBERT TOLD YIN THAT THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF PEKING HAD BEEN IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT HIS "CONSCIENCE" COULD NO LONGER PERMIT HIM TO DELAY ACTION. TOLBERT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE GRC HAD BEEN MAKING TO GOL DEVELOPMENT AND HOPED THAT SOME MODALITIES MIGHT BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY SOME GRC PRESENCE MIGHT REMAIN IN LIBERIA.

2. YIN TOLD TOLBERT THAT THE GRC HAD NO INTERESTS IN LIBERIA OTHER THAN MAINTENANCE OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. YIN POINTED OUT TO TOLBERT THAT THERE ARE NO RESIDENT CHINESE IN LIBERIA, OTHER
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THAN MEMBERS OF HIS MISSION OR OF UN-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS, AND THAT THE GRC HAD NO INVESTMENTS IN LIBERIA. YIN TOLD ME THAT HE WENT THROUGH THE FORMALITY OF REPEATING GRC ARGUMENTS AGAINST RECOGNITION OF THE PRC. YIN TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT FACED A DILEMMA AS FAR AS HIS "CONSCIENCE" WAS CONCERNED IN THAT HE WOULD BE RECOGNIZING A REGIME WHICH IS OPPRESSIVE WHILE TURNING

HIS BACK ON A COUNTRY WHICH IS PROGRESSIVE AND HAS BEEN OF CONSIDERABLE HELP TO LIBERIA. YIN REMINDED TOLBERT THAT THE GRC HAD EXTENDED OVER \$10 MILLION IN LOANS TO THE GOL AND THAT OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS ITS TECHNICAL AID HAD COST THE GRC APPROXIMATELY \$1.5 MILLION A YEAR. YIN ALSO REMINDED TOLBERT THAT FOUR YEARS AGO, WHEN THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF PEKING HAD BEEN RAISED ONCE BEFORE, TOLBERT HAD ASSURED YIN THAT THE GOL WOULD NOT SEEK TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE PRC IF THAT MEANT SACRIFICING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS FRIEND, THE GRC. YIN NOTED TO TOLBERT THAT FOLLOWING THIS EXCHANGE, THE GOL AT THE INVITATION OF THE GRC, SENT A DELEGATION TO TAIWAN TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID. YIN COMMENTED TO ME THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO THESE ARGUMENTS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE UP HIS MIND DEFINITELY TO RECOGNIZE THE PRC.

3. COMMENT: YIN BELIEVES, AND I TEND TO AGREE, THAT TOLBERT'S ACTION IS THE RESULT OF A DESIRE NOT TO BE THE LAST COUNTRY IN AFRICA TO RECOGNIZE PEKING; AND THAT THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, SPECIFICALLY PRESIDENT MOBUTO OF ZAIRE, PROBABLY HAS BEEN IMPORTANT. THE GRC AID MISSION INCLUDES ABOUT 70 AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS IN SCATTERED LOCATIONS WITH AN ADDITIONAL 20 TECHNICIANS ATTACHED TO THE SUGAR REFINERY PROJECT. IN 1975, IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN WERE VALUED AT \$4.7 MILLION AND FROM MAINLAND CHINA AT \$5.4 MILLION, OUT OF AN IMPORT TOTAL OF \$331 MILLION.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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